

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) Novel An isolated oligonucleotide primers having consisting essentially of a polynucleotide having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3 and or SEQ ID NO: 4 for amplification of the kinesin-related gene of Leishmania species.
2. (Currently amended) A method for detecting and differentiating visceral leishmaniasis (VL) and post kala-azar-dermal leishmaniasis (PKDL) causing strains of *Leishmania donovani* in a sample, the said method comprising the steps of:
  - a) isolating DNA from a sample;
  - b) amplifying the target region from a desired region of the DNA of isolated in step (a) using novel oligonucleotide primers having consisting essentially of a polynucleotide having the nucleotides sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3 and SEQ ID NO: 4, and heat stable DNA polymerase, to obtain amplified fragments;
  - c) separating the amplified fragments of obtained in step (b) to obtain a separation pattern; and
  - d) analyzing the fragments of step (c) to detecting and differentiating VL and PKDL causing strains of *Leishmania donovani* based by observing differences in on the banding separation pattern of the amplified fragments.
3. (Currently amended) ATThe method of claim 2, wherein in step (a) the sample is either a clinical sample or culture sample.
4. (Currently amended) ATThe method of claim 3, wherein the clinical sample is selected from a group consisting of blood, bone marrow aspirate, bone marrow biopsy, splenic aspirate, splenic biopsy, liver aspirate, liver biopsy, lymph node aspirate, lymph node biopsy, skin scrapping, slit biopsy and other tissue materials.

5. (Currently amended) AThe method as claimed in claim 2 wherein in step (b) the heat stable DNA polymerase is *Taq polymerase*.
6. (Currently amended) AThe method as claimed in claim 2 wherein in step (b) the amplification is done by polymerase chain reaction.
7. (Currently amended) AThe method as claimed in 2 wherein in step (c) the separation is done preferably by gel electrophoresis.
8. (Currently amended) AThe method as claimed in 2 wherein in step (d) the detection is by ethidium bromide or other DNA stains.
9. (Currently amended) A diagnostic kit for detection and differentiation of VL and PKDL causing strains of the *Leishmania donovani*, comprising of novel oligonucleotide primers having consisting essentially of a polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3 and or SEQ ID NO: 4, reaction buffer, *Taq polymerase*, a DNA marker, positive and negative control samples and and an instruction manual.
10. (Canceled)